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HOLY LIGHT

WINTER 2025

A NEWSLETTER OF HOLY FAMILY INSTITUTE

IN OUR COMMUNITY: CARING FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES CLOSE TO HOME

For 125 years, Holy Family Institute has faced changing times with flexibility, creativity, and above all, compassion. That care for our local community is put into practice each and every day in our six community programs. The services and supports provided are diverse – meeting families where they are to face the challenges of living in today's society.

The **Customer Assistance Program (CAP)** is a partnership with Duquesne Light Company that serves nearly 40,000 households each year. The dedicated team works with low- and fixed-income clients to coordinate access to utility assistance and other basic needs. "CAP ensured that we had a safety cushion until we could take it back over," said one client. CAP offices serve as a safe space for community members to find caring case managers with broad knowledge of their neighborhood's resources.

Holy Family Specialized Learning (HFSL) is a licensed private academic school focused on supporting students with unique academic and behavioral challenges. Students at HFSL have Individualized Education Programs that foster constructive behavior, academic growth, and emotional resilience. The school's goal is to give students the tools necessary to succeed academically, socially, and professionally so that they can transition back to their home school districts. In the first semester of this school year alone, five students accomplished this goal with the support of HFSL staff.

In-Home Family Services aim to keep families together and provide the support needed to address significant challenges and meet goals for reunification. This year, a family was referred to the program in the final stages of Termination of Parental Rights (TPR). After working with In-Home and Visit Coaching counselors, the judge ordered reunification and dismissed the TPR case.

Parents and Children Together (PACT) provides a unique approach to truancy, involving the whole family in a structured program to identify and tackle the obstacles preventing the child from attending school regularly. "PACT was very encouraging and supportive at appointments, always following up with me to make sure I have what I need," said one PACT client.

Continued inside ➔



HFI AT 125

This year, Holy Family Institute is celebrating an incredible milestone – 125 years caring for children and families in our community. To share our organization's rich history, we will highlight stories from key moments in our past.

In 1875, Mother Frances Siedliska founded the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth in Rome, declaring, "[We bear witness to God's] love through dedicated service to the Church, especially in our ministry to the family." Since then, the Sisters have expanded that ministry across Europe, the United States, Australia, and Asia.

The Sisters began their ministries in Pittsburgh teaching at parishes in the Strip District and Polish Hill. In 1897, they purchased a home (pictured below) seven miles outside the city in Emsworth to escape the city's industrial atmosphere. While continuing their work in the city, the Emsworth home became a respite for the Sisters.

On September 1, 1900, the home found its true purpose. At that time, the Sisters welcomed three children orphaned by a house fire. By 1904, the original home was at full capacity, prompting the Sisters to expand to the 10-acre property where Holy Family Institute and Nazareth Prep are situated today.

Mother Frances Siedliska, foundress of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth.



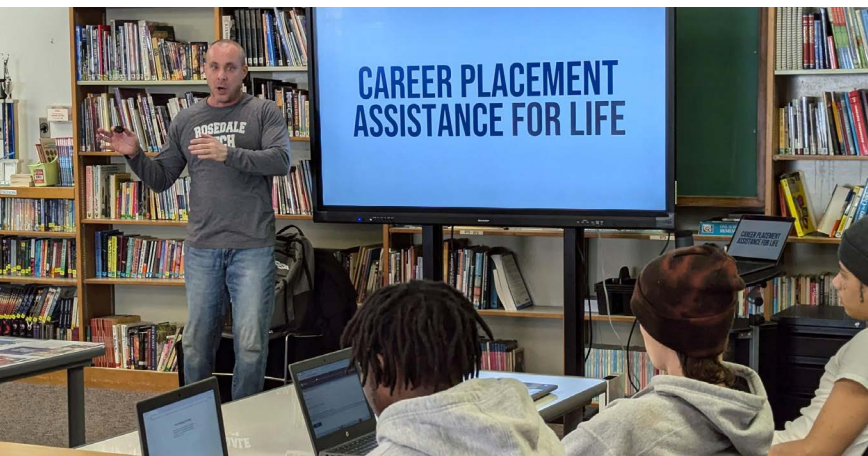
MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SEPTEMBER 13, 2025! MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW.
SPIRIT OF FAMILY AWARDS: CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

IN OUR COMMUNITY (CONT'D.)

SNAP® (Stop Now and Plan) is another program that recognizes the value in involving the whole family when addressing a child's behavioral challenges. SNAP® counselors meet with parents and children in individual and group sessions to teach evidence-based techniques for managing emotions and controlling behaviors. Last year, SNAP® team members completed nearly 3,000 hours of counseling.

Visit Coaching is a lifeline for families navigating the complexities of the child welfare system. With supportive coaching sessions, parents learn skills and gain confidence to maximize visitation time and work toward reunification with their children. Last year, 48 families were served in the Visit Coaching program.

For more than a century, Holy Family Institute has been proud to serve the greater Pittsburgh community. Over the years, the organization has expanded, and our reach is broader than ever. We are dedicated to serving those in our community who are in need of compassionate assistance to build a strong, resilient family.



INSPIRATION MEETS OPPORTUNITY IN THE TRADES

Last month, Holy Family Specialized Learning (HFSL) was excited to welcome Steve Macri, Director of Educational Outreach for Rosedale Technical College. Eleventh and twelfth grade students learned about the programs offered at Rosedale. The conversation highlighted the transformational power of technical education and the impact of empowering students with practical skills and real-world opportunities.

Through the extraordinary generosity of the John & Loriann Putzier Family Foundation, any HFSL or Nazareth Prep student attending Rosedale is eligible to receive a scholarship covering the cost of attendance after financial aid. Holy Family is looking forward to providing students with opportunities to explore post-secondary pathways in the trades. For more information on this scholarship opportunity, contact Steve Macri at steve.macri@rosedaletech.edu or 412-443-8722.

HONORING OUR LEGACY, INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

For 125 years, Holy Family Institute has been a beacon of hope for children and families in need. As we look to the future, we invite you to be part of our enduring legacy by including Holy Family in your will or estate plans.

A planned gift is one of the most meaningful ways to ensure that our mission continues for generations to come. By naming Holy Family Institute in your will, trust, or beneficiary designations, you help provide critical services – education, counseling, and support – that change lives.

Planned gifts can also offer financial benefits, such as tax savings, while allowing you to support both your loved ones and the causes that matter most to you. Whether you choose to designate a specific amount, a percentage of your estate, or another type of legacy gift, your generosity will leave a lasting impact.



To learn more about how you can include Holy Family Institute in your legacy plans, please contact us at 412-239-9014 or development@hfi-pgh.org. Together, we can continue transforming lives for years to come.

AN ETHIC OF SERVICE: ROOTED IN TRADITION, RADIATING THROUGH NAZARETH PREP

At Nazareth Prep, service is more than just an activity; it's a living tradition that shapes character and extends far beyond designated volunteer hours. Grounded in Catholic Social Teaching, particularly the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable, students actively engage in service that fosters solidarity with those facing hardship. What truly stands out is the genuine heart and commitment brought to these endeavors, demonstrating a strong dedication to community.

Under the direction of Student Development Manager Carlie Sittig and the faculty, Nazareth Prep students launched this year's school-wide service initiatives with Project Linus in September. Students poured their creativity and care into crafting handmade blankets for children in need, with each blanket bearing personal touches that spoke to their commitment. These blankets were provided to children throughout the Greater Pittsburgh Area. This project served as a powerful opening to the year.

In November, a beloved tradition continued: the holiday blessing bag initiative. Students contributed to a dress-down day, and these funds were then used by Ms. Sittig, to create a "store" within the school. Guided by a description of a specific individual or family in need, students then "shopped" within this store, carefully selecting items to fill blessing bags for local homeless shelters. This approach cultivates empathy, shifting the focus from simple charity to a genuine connection with the recipients. The questions, "What would brighten their day? What would I want if I were in their shoes?" resonated deeply, and the overwhelming enthusiasm and desire to contribute more than required underscores the compassion of the Nazareth Prep student body.

In December, Nazareth Prep students continued their work with Love for Our Elders, a Cleveland-based nonprofit dedicated to combating social isolation among older adults across the nation. Students read heartfelt letters, revealing the lives and struggles of isolated elders, and they responded with personalized letters and cards of encouragement. This intergenerational connection, especially meaningful to students who cherish their own grandparents, fostered a sense of shared humanity.

These service activities are not isolated events; they are integral to the Nazareth Prep experience. The ethic of care cultivated is carried back into classrooms, sports teams, and co-curricular activities, enriching the entire school community. Head of School Dr. Stacy Tweedy notes, "we are fortunate to have students arrive at Nazareth Prep with a natural inclination to care for others. The school is privileged to provide the channels to express their compassionate hearts."



Nazareth Prep intern Jalen Rice with his mentor, Tony Angotti.

INTERNSHIP PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



At Burns Industrial Equipment, a family-owned business specializing in industrial equipment sales, rental, parts, and service, Nazareth Prep senior Jalen Rice is gaining experience in reception, new sales ordering, shipping/receiving, parts ordering, service dispatch, and accounting/IT/HR through four-week rotations in each of the company's departments.

In each rotation, Jalen spends the first week shadowing a member of the department. For the remaining three weeks, he participates as a member of the team. In this way, Jalen experiences the full operations of the company, from sales call to order fulfillment.

"This experience has been transformative for both Jalen and our staff, reinforcing the value of mentorship and early career exposure," said Tony Angotti, Vice President of Human Resources and Jalen's mentor.

Nazareth Prep's Internship Program, with the support of our dedicated partners like Burns Industrial Equipment, exposes students to workplaces in a variety of industries, providing one-on-one mentorship to develop skills that will help them succeed in the post-secondary pathway of their choice.

Burns provides critical tuition support to Nazareth Prep students through the PA Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC). To learn more about the EITC program and how your tax dollars can provide scholarships for deserving students, or how to become an internship partner, contact Katie Sidhom, Vice President of Business Development, at 412-239-9025 or sidhom.katie@nazarethprep.org.

